433 No over-all figures on the increase of capital, output or employment are
472 available, but the following data are indicative. Between 1945 and 1953,
454 inclusive, a total of £S 70.7 million was invested in thirty-seven industrial joint-stock companies; of this £S 53.1 million was invested in 1945 and 1946. 1/ A considerable amount was also invested in unincorporated enterprises. Sales of electricity to industry increased from 15 million kilowatt-hours in 1947 to 28 million in 1951, 36 million in 1953 and 19 million during the first half of 1954. Imports of industrial machinery and equipment amounted to 5,100 tons in 1950, 19,500 in 1951, 10,800 in 1952 and 12,000 tons in 1953, with an aggregate value of £S 200 million. 2/ Table 51 shows available information on the principal Syrian industries.

433 The textile industry is by far the most important, as regards capital
288 invested, employment and value of output. The rapid expansion of cotton growing led to an increase in the number of cotton ginneries, from thirty in 1945 to 110 in 1953. Cotton spinning began in 1953; by 1953 there were 10,000 spindles and by 1954 some 92,000 with a capacity of 12,000 tons of cotton and rayon yarn. Output of cotton yarn rose from 1,700 tons in 1944 to 5,500 in 1950 and 6,600 tons in 1953; that of rayon yarn from 800 in 1950 to 1,200 in 1953; there was a further increase in 1954. Small factories also produce 40 tons of woollen yarn and 16 tons of silk yarn. Mechanical looms increased from 1,500 in 1939 to 3,500 in 1953; there are also 6,000 hand looms. Output of cloth, knitted goods and hosiery is shown in table 51. Dyeing and printing are done in well equipped factories established after the Second World War. The textile industry meets local requirements in most branches and provides an export surplus.

433 Food processing industries form the next most important group. A large-scale
258 sugar refinery started production in 1950, on imported raw sugar; its output rose to 30,000 tons in 1953, of which 23,000 were from imported raw sugar and 7,000 from locally grown beets; output in 1954 was about 38,000 tons. It also produces 1,000 tons of alcohol and some starch glucose as a by-product. The refinery, which fully meets Syria's demand, has not yet reached its full capacity. The vegetable oil industry produces, by means of modern presses established after the war as well as older hand presses, some 7,000 to 12,000 tons of olive oil, about 6,000 to 8,000 tons of cotton-seed oil and some 2,000 to 4,000 tons of other
655 oils. Other important food and beverage industries include the making of biscuits and macaroni, oleomargarine, confectionery and chocolates, and also brewing and canning. The tobacco industry is a State monopoly. 3/

1/ Of the total, £S 23 million was accounted for by six textile companies, 13.4 million by four food processing companies, 10.5 million by three vegetable oil and soap companies, 9.0 million by a cement and building materials company, 8.0 million by a glass and porcelain company, 3.3 million by seventeen electric power companies and 3.5 million by five other companies.

2/ Data from Ministry of National Economy.

3/ The Government took over the tobacco monopoly from a concessionary company in 1951, paying £S 2.5 million as compensation.